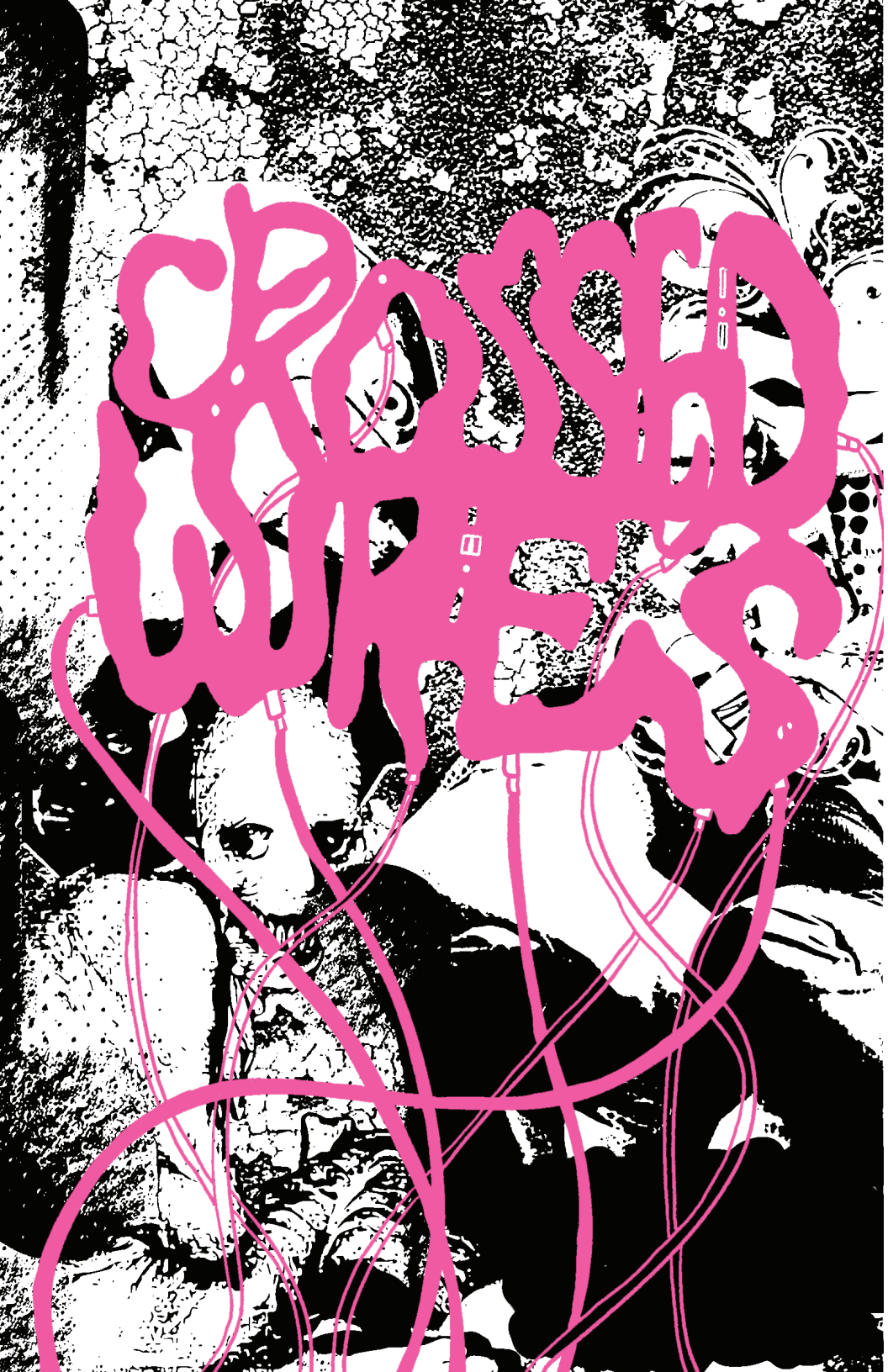
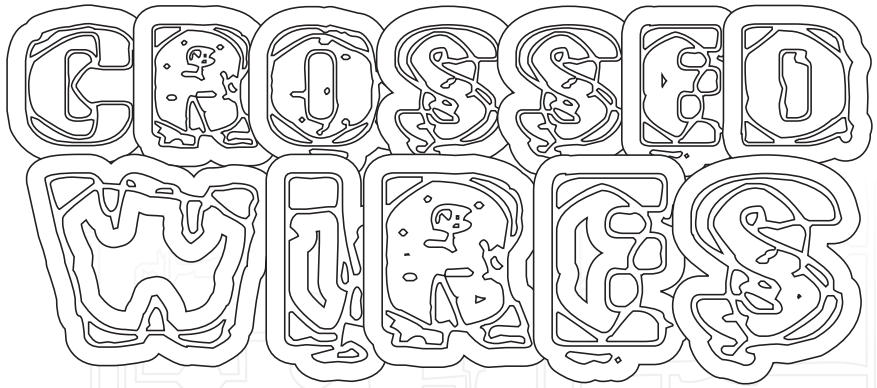

CROSSED
WIRES



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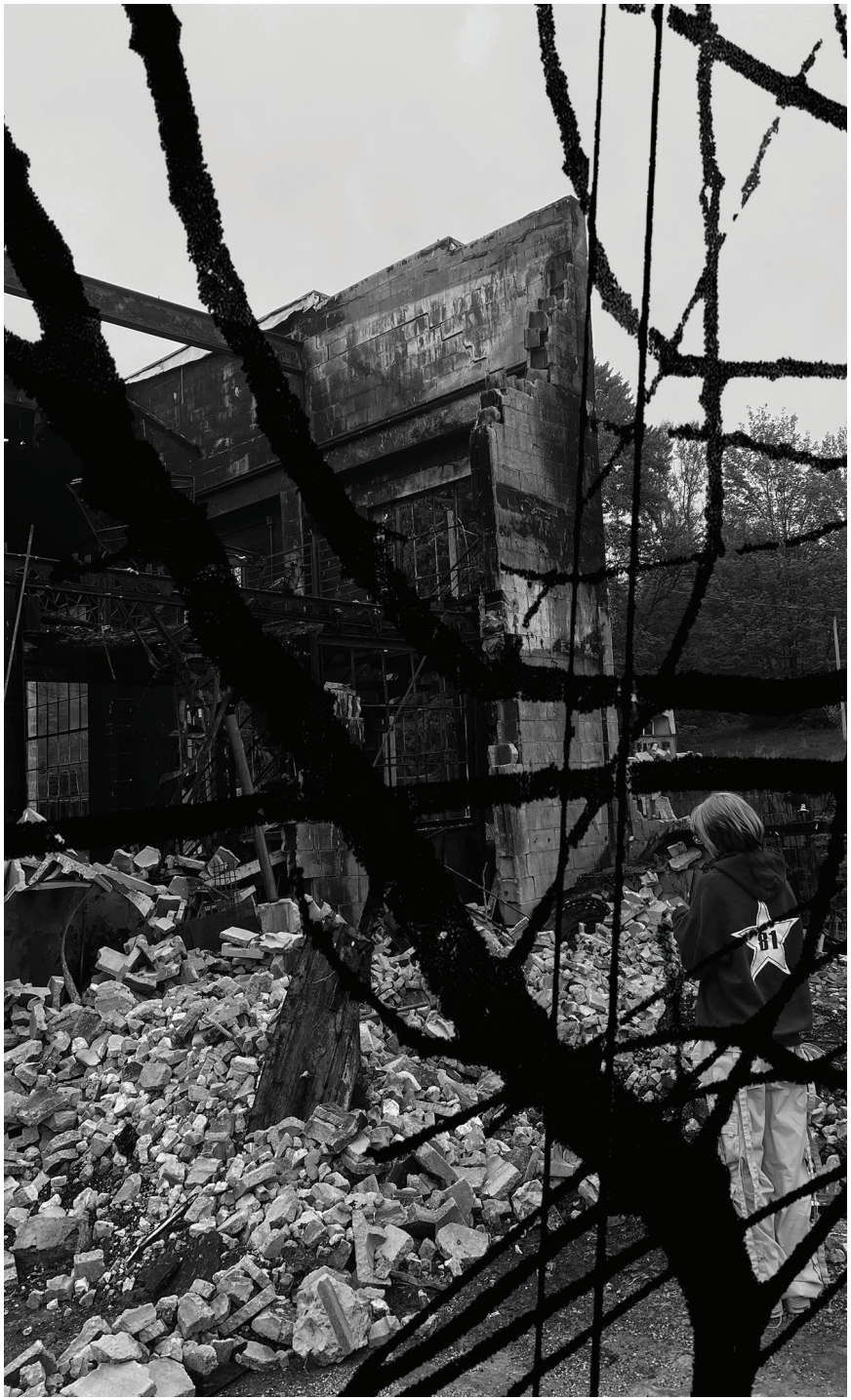
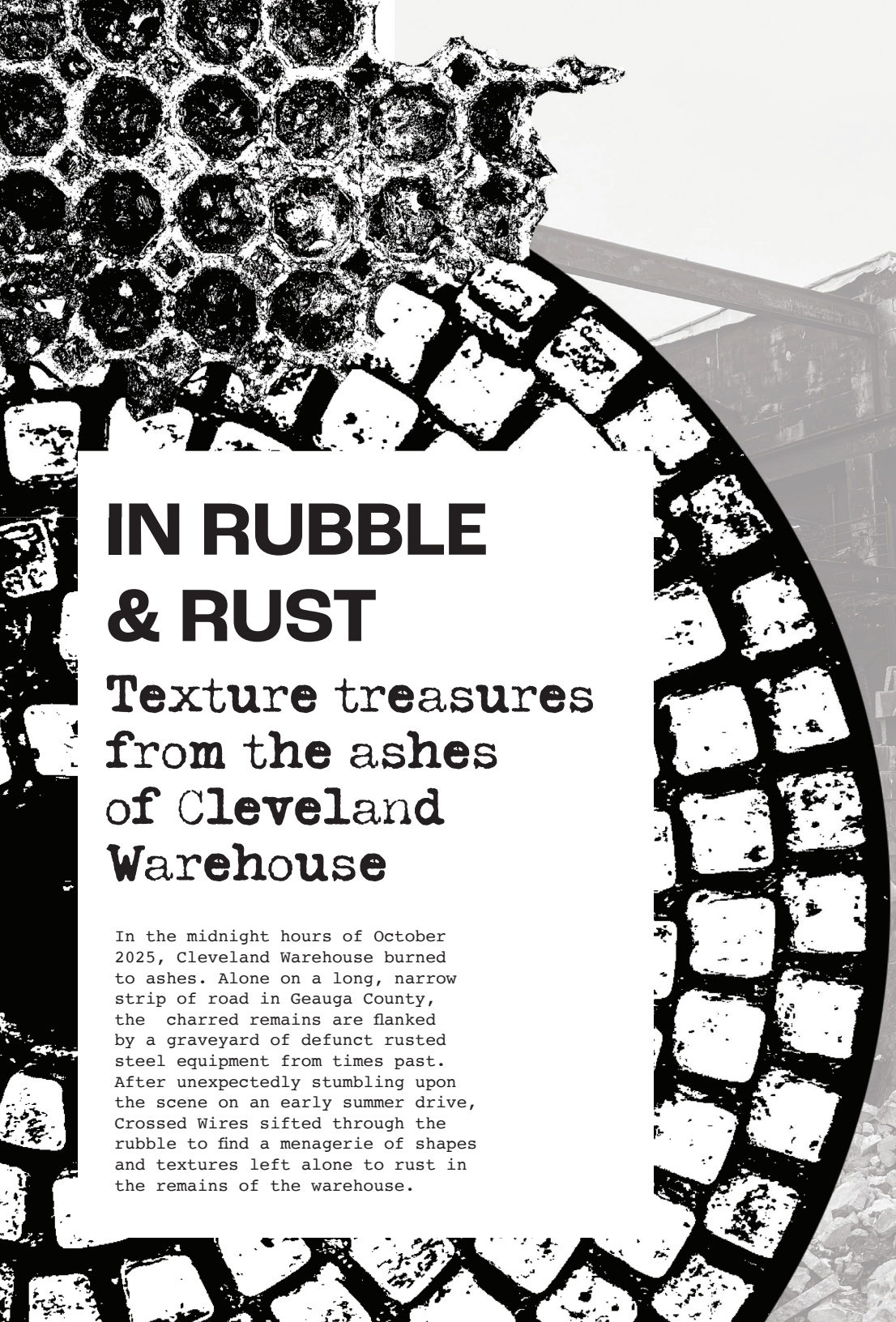
Who Crossed These Wires Anyway?

+ Coworkers
+ Roommates
+ Etc..?

Crossed Wires is the creative project of three best friends who met in art school and needed something to creatively collaborate on. We get weird when we don't work together, so upon graduation, Crossed Wires was formed.

the most employed unemployed people ever

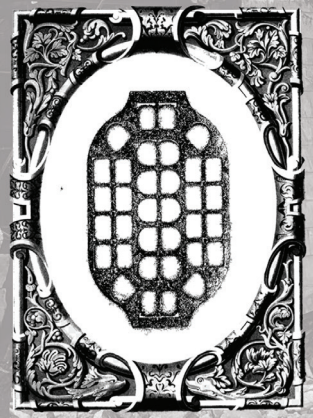




IN RUBBLE & RUST

Texture treasures from the ashes of Cleveland Warehouse

In the midnight hours of October 2025, Cleveland Warehouse burned to ashes. Alone on a long, narrow strip of road in Geauga County, the charred remains are flanked by a graveyard of defunct rusted steel equipment from times past. After unexpectedly stumbling upon the scene on an early summer drive, Crossed Wires sifted through the rubble to find a menagerie of shapes and textures left alone to rust in the remains of the warehouse.



TONIC

Zygote Press PROOF Fellowship Exhibition

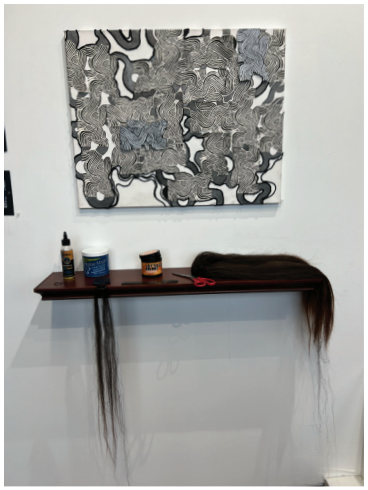
On Friday, May 15th, Crossed Wires visited the brand new Zygote Press space on Perkins Avenue to attend the opening of TONIC, a printmaking exhibition put on by Zygote's 2026 PROOF Fellowship. Featured artists include Arfil Pajarillaga, Erykah Townsend, Briana Robinson, Kalia Horner, Jazzee Rozier and Monique Donesia.

The PROOF fellowship is an annual residency program that offers nonprintmaking BIPOC artists the opportunity to learn printmaking techniques and create a new body of work at Zygote over the course of 6 months through a series of workshops and individualized instruction. The new space is a sprawling two story brick and warm wood space. The gallery feels spacious, with each artist having their own wall or corner of the space to install their exhibition.

The show itself feels much more installation focused than some of the past shows that Zygote has hosted, with each artist truly filling and expanding upon the space they were allocated. On one wall, a wood framed corkboard with risograph prints resembling a physical forum of humorous missed connections drawn by Erykah Townsend, flanked by two functioning PC stations for visitors to submit their own missed connections. Opposite, an elaborate shrine to cultural customs and familial remembrance by Kalia Horner, swathed in red and gold and taking a sculptural approach to the print medium. Each featured artist included some element of sculpture or installation with their work, pushing the boundaries of print out of the margins, off of the paper, and into the viewer's space. The installations fill the space with ease, but the high ceilings and open center maintains a sense of airiness, despite the event being extremely well attended.

The PROOF opening was a triumphant start to a new era of Zygote Press—bigger, better, and more air conditioned than ever!

The next application cycle for PROOF Fellows is currently open until June 15th. The residency will run June 29th through February 1st, 2027. For more information, visit zygotepress.org or @zygotepress on Instagram.



TBOY ARM WRESTLING

GENDER PERFORMANCE AND ATHLETICISM AT URGE: TBOI! GO GO!

After seeing the flyer for an arm wrestling contest at URGE, a queer dance party that touts itself as being “created by freaks for freaks”, Crossed Wires cleared their schedules and dug their best leather out of the closet. We arrived just in time to catch the action and maneuvered to the front of the audience, careful not to miss a thing as competitors were called up for their brackets.
Athletes’ muscles bulged as they struggled in each other’s grasp, face to face, with the potential of a kiss lingering in the air following victory/defeat.

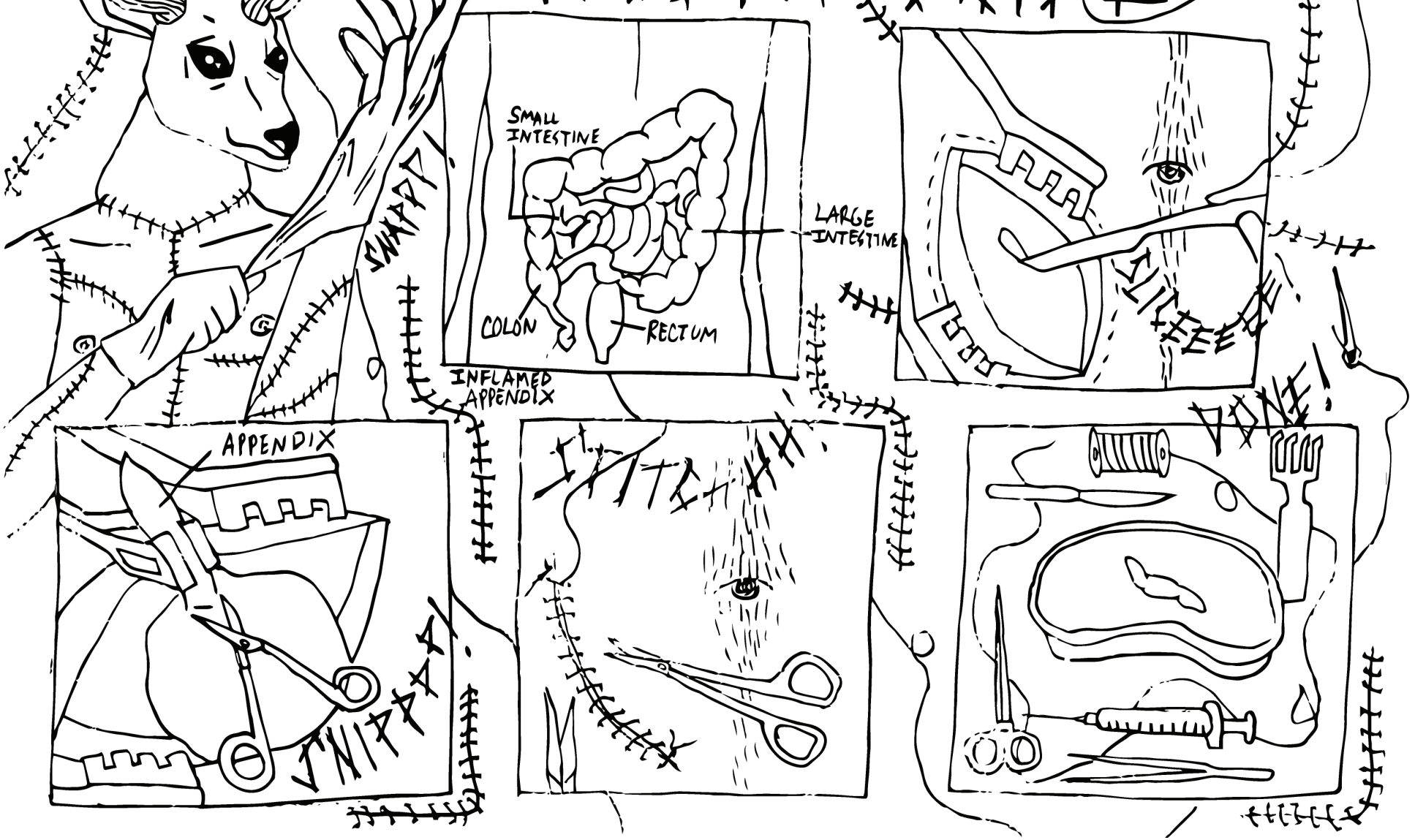
In this moment, all I could think of was how gay wrestling really is. I mean, we were at a kinky queer dance party on a Friday night, so this makes sense here. What a wonderful display of masculinity and intimacy! But I just can't help but think how straight cis men have to justify groping other muscly men in the name of sport.

I've been working my way through Judith Butler's book Gender Trouble. In her analysis, she argues that all gender is a performance, emphasizing that we all “do” gender rather than “are” one. Identity is attached to a verb rather than a noun. I find this so interesting, especially as it applies to a spectacle like t-boy arm wrestling. There is the allure of athleticism that one may seek from traditional sport, but more so, this spectacle is about gender expression. A direct performance proclaiming masculinity is what I saw as I watched competitors’ triumphs and defeats in front of the crowd.

A choice (consciously or not) has to be made on how to perform gender, and at URGE, masculinity is performed not as a patriarchal or bioessentialist innately prescribed identity, but as a conduit for connection, a celebration of physicality within queer spaces.

BUTCH BUCK'S SURGERY GUIDE

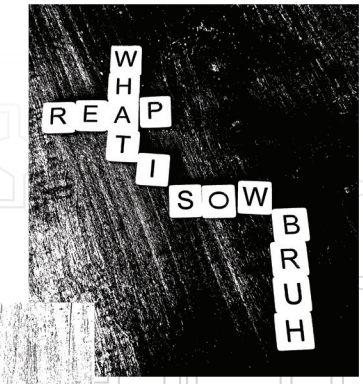
HOW TO REMOVE AN APPENDIX



I REARRANGED MY WHOLE BOARD TO SPELL SUFFERING

CROSSED WIRES

ISSUE ONE



DOES SUFFERING HAVE TWO RS OR JUST ONE

THE CASSIE_MCCOY_INTER-VIEW

"I HOPE IT MAKES YOU A LITTLE BIT UNCOMFORTABLE TOO. THAT'S ALWAYS WHAT I WANT. THAT ALSO TRANSLATES TO MY PHOTOGRAPHY STYLE—I ALWAYS GET REALLY CLOSE TO MY SUBJECTS, MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE BIT TOO CLOSE."

Crossed Wires sits down with sunny midwest creative Cassie McCoy over coffee to discuss how she got her start in photography, her current inspirations, and recap the residency in Lisbon she completed last year. It is about halfway through our interview that the clouds break and the sun starts beating on my back for the first time in a weeklong period of typical Ohio gloom. As I'm squinting across the teal metal coffee shop table at Cassie, I note the pathetic fallacy and allow myself to be swept entirely into her enthusiastic and self assured way of speaking. I will buy a film camera one week after this interview.

Cassie's creative practice encapsulates far more than just photography and she shifts seamlessly between roles, embodying designer, poet, music video director, music journalist, podcast host, and more. Her visual style is equally protean, though held together with a throughline of honesty, intimacy, and breathtaking color handling. While candid shots of friends, events, and passerbyers on the street make up a sizeable chunk of her work, Cassie's lens seemingly has the ability to extract something stunningly vulnerable from each of her subjects, even in the most posed of shots.

behold!
the slimjim &tonic
(noun)
a drink that a guy i used to date in athens got me at
Tony's that is simply a gin and tonic with a naked
slimjim.

photos by cassie mccoy
instagram: @churbumgirl
www.cassiemccoy.com

Who are some of your inspirations?

In art: David Carson, Cindy Sherman, Jonas Åkerlund, Gregory Crewdson, Billy Bigwood.
In music: Smoke City, Massive Attack, Cakedog.
In life: Sam Rubin.

What are some of your dream projects, not restricted by time/resources/money?

Route 66, I'm taking a refurbished Ford Bronco and we're doing a photo series at hotels and motels with a bunch of different models. *Spun* by Jonas Åkerlund is the main inspiration. For a music video…I know I would shoot it on 16mm. It's expensive, but it's the best quality. I would probably do it for Cakedog, who is a footwork artist, because I think it would be funny to put footwork dancing on 16mm.

You recently completed a residency in Lisbon. How do you think that experience shaped your work?

It changed my entire life. One thing I noticed about the creative culture in Lisbon is that everyone is very chill, they're there to party and have fun. But the way that they were able to balance that, but also have critique that uplifted us and point out blindspots? It was awesome. They were all very suggestion based in critique. Like, why don't you try this or how about adding this. They were all about adding and I really liked that because usually I feel like "Oh, I need to do a little bit less here, I'm kinda doing too much." My style changed completely, it changed like I'd never seen it before. I went to this film lab called Carmencita, the best film lab in Lisbon, and they had the option to scan with borders for free. I just fell in love with that look. I loved the white space in the background even though usually I'm taking up a ton of space with my work.

How do you so effortlessly connect with people and make your subjects comfortable? It really shows in your work.

People get very uncomfortable if they don't know what to do. But then when you tell them "oh, just try this." And then sometimes, you know, I'll literally give them a direction. Sometimes I'm like, "Actually, this was trash. Let's try something else." I can admit when I did something that isnt working because you know, we're both trying. And then the model will start doing their own thing, and I'm like, wait, yes! And then that positive reinforcement helps too. When they're like, "Oh, wait, that was good?" I'm like, "Yes, it was." Cause you're being yourself. I like that. You have to constantly communicate, you break down the walls with people, and you have to be vocal in a shoot.

> **"AS AN ARTIST, YOU JUST HAVE TO TRUST IN SOMETHING FUCKING GREATER."**

It seems writing is ever-present in your work. How does your writing practice relate to your photography?

I've always been a writer, and I don't know, at some point I just stopped writing. Never do that, by the way. If you're a writer, or if you're an artist, you have to write every day basically. Write every day.
I took a Kent State fashion publishing and magazine design class, and found other practices to convey how I write, you know, with visual art, and now I'm like Oh, I can combine both. I never considered myself a designer, but then I did that. This is a whole other world for me. These spreads really changed everything about my style.

Your trust in the universe is inspiring. How do you do it?

She can give it to you straight. That's what she fucking can do sometimes. Like, we are inherently spiritual beings. We are meant to believe in something bigger than us, no matter what it looks like. I think that's a big thing about my practice, trying to base it within spirituality. Because no matter what you believe in, as an artist you just have to trust in something fucking greater.

I have a love for escapism, clearing my pallette, and searching for a higher truth. I used to be so shameful of this, but there are ways to naviagte how you are meant to move through the world in healthy, less intense ways. Life has been heavy, as you know, so I asked myself...
empty space
so I ended up in Athens, Ohio.
WHAT DO I NEED RIGHT NOW?
a couch that is low to the ground
good coffee I am not used to
peace
comfort
lived in homes, housing busy folk
fresh air
a looooooong drive
hills
ease
a place I miss that I know like the back of my hand
people who I know can ride waves with me

TRACKLIST

1. King Diamond - Team Sleep
2. Dumb Summer - Helen 55
3. Journal of Ardency - Class Actress
4. Empathy - Prefix
5. Half the Day is the Night - Gábor Szabó
6. Kiss Me, I'm Contagious - From First To Last

7. Heels broke = died - MGNA Crrrta
8. I'll Sing For You (Will You Ever Know) - Love Letter
9. uncoded (bonus track)- insika, TASHKA
10. A/B Machines- Sleigh Bells
11. Stay - The Blue Nile
12. Alone - Slayyyter

CROSSED WIRES

Want to see your art, collage, poetry, prose, opinions, dreams etc. in the next issue?

SUBMIT 2 ME!

instagram, substack, linktree:
@crossedwireszine

CROSSED WIRES LOVES YOU!